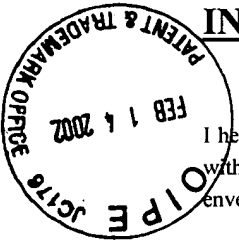


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02-26-02**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on

Date: February 4, 2002By: Lynda Relisch

In re Application of:

Examiner: Not Assigned

Naoki Watanabe et al.

Serial No.: 09/905,440

Art Unit: 2171

**RECEIVED**

Filed: July 13, 2001

**FEB 2 1 2002**

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**Technology Center 2100**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO  
37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)**

Dear Commissioner:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56 and pursuant to 37 CFR §§1.97-1.98, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. One copy of each reference cited is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the filing date but before receiving the first Office Action. Accordingly, no fee or certification is needed.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant reserves the right to dispute any of the listed documents as prior art during examination. Furthermore, Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present


application. The submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other material information may exist.

The Examiner is requested to initial the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and return a copy thereof to the undersigned.

If for any reason an insufficient fee has been paid, please charge the insufficiency to Deposit Account No. 05-0150.

Date: February 4, 2002  
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Respectfully submitted,

  
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PaloAlto/31879v1

**Burden Hour Statement:** This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.